

MINUTES
St. Louis County Board of Commissioners Solid Waste Subcommittee
Northland Office Building,
1st Floor Environmental Services Conference Room #118
Virginia, Minnesota
February 28, 2011

Call to Order: Steve Raukar called the meeting to order at 1:50 p.m.

Members Present: Commissioner Mike Forsman, Commissioner Keith Nelson, Commissioner Steve Raukar, and Commissioner Peg Sweeney **Others Present:** Dave Fink, Diane Hildreth and Ted Troolin, Environmental Services Department; Barb Russ, St. Louis County Attorney's Office; Chris Strub, Northern MN Recycling; Jim Borash, Waste Management

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Commissioner Nelson and second by Commissioner Sweeney the minutes of the January 31, 2011, Solid Waste Subcommittee meeting were approved as presented.

A verbal director's update was added to the agenda. Troolin briefly updated the Commissioners on three items: The Department has gone out for bids for resurfacing the Regional Landfill road. Ground shingles will be used for 5% of the materials in the blacktop process. Final cost will be \$425,000. The Department will be having future discussions with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) about potential changes for regulating land application of leachate. This potential change could restrict leachate land application and the Department would have to haul significantly more leachate to the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD). The cost to the Department would be approximately \$300,000 per year.

Department staff will meet with St. Louis County Sheriff's Department staff to discuss options for pharmaceutical collections. This will be added as an agenda item for the next SWSC meeting.

Demolition Waste - Long-Range Planning: Fink gave a handout on the demolition materials management program PowerPoint presentation to the group. Fink summarized the program goals, demolition processing projected costs, and ways the Department can promote demolition materials management. Department recommendations include a revised fee structure, expansion of the Hibbing demolition landfill, demolition hauler licensing, programs to facilitate proper demolition management and continued evaluation by department staff to improve the demolition separation process. Items discussed by the group included future demolition hauler meetings, point of origin or load management charges, and consistent demolition costs throughout St. Louis County.

2012 Fees: Troolin gave a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed the background of the County's tipping and service fees; compared fee structures to other counties in Minnesota; and discussed issues regarding current tipping fees and service fees. Troolin gave a 2011 and beyond Solid Waste service fees handout dated February 24, 2011 to the group. An agenda item for a future SWSC meeting will be discussion of apartment building service fee charges. Currently the Department charges one rate per building while most counties charge each unit in the building a separate service fee. The Department intends to propose a tipping fee increase for 2012. The group discussed increasing fees and increasing property tax assessments while having a reserve balance. This will be put on the agenda for an upcoming SWSC meeting. The Department will compile a fee proposal within two months for the Commissioners to review, at which time discussions on fee increases will occur.

Capital Plan: Troolin gave a handout on the Solid Waste Capital Plan 2011-2020 PowerPoint presentation to the group. Troolin started to review each year's revenues, expenditures and major factors influencing the end of year fund balances for solid waste activities. Due to time constraints of this meeting, Troolin will present a five year capital plan at the next SWSC meeting.

Solid Waste Processing Facility Tours: Troolin gave handouts on material recovery facilities and landfill baling/processing facilities in Minnesota. The Department is in the process of scheduling processing facility tours. More details on these tours will be made available at upcoming SWSC meetings.

Public Comment Period: There were no comments from the general public at this meeting.

Scheduling Next Meeting: The next Solid Waste Subcommittee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 28, 2011. The Solid Waste subcommittee will be scheduled for the morning and the sewage subcommittee immediately following. The entire day will be reserved for these meetings. Future meetings will alternate starting between the solid waste and the sewage subcommittee.

Adjourn:

Upon motion by Commissioner Nelson and second by Commissioner Sweeney the meeting was adjourned.